The Government has also undertaken various Radio and Doordarshan programmes highlighting the ill-effects of tobacco consumption. The people are also being educated through printed materials.

In the National Conference on "Tobacco or Health" held recently at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi on 27-28 July, '91 a number of recommendations were made for imparting health education to the people for combating the tobacco menace. The concerned Ministries/Departments of Govt. of India as well as State Governments have been requested to take necessary follow-up action.

Medical care by Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narain Hospital to the victims of Uttarkashi Earthquake

521. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Lok Nayak Jaya Prakash Narain Hospital authorities have drawn an elaborate plan to provide medical care to the victims of recent earthquake in Uttarkashi; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Lok Nayak Jaya Prakash Narain Hospital authorities have drawn up an elaborate plan to provide medical care to the victims of recent earthquake in Uttarkashi, which includes the following:-

(i) To open a Disaster Ward in the hospital to cater to the seriously injured victims in need of multidisciplinary care of specialised nature.

(ii) Creation of a disaster relief cell to function round the clock in the casuality and to monitor the quake hit victims admitted in the hospital.

(iii) Supply the materials collected on voluntary basis for quake hit victims, which include medicine, suture materials, dressing material, blankets and wollens, etc.

(iv) Sending a team of doctors of Lok Nayak Jaya Prakash Narain Hospital for the relief of the victims of the quake with the required materialis.

New Kala Azar Drug

522. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Health Organisation had selected India for experimenting New Kala Azar drug, Liposomal preparation of Amphotericin B in October, 1991;

(b) if so, what is the result thereof; and

(c) the places in the country and the number of patients on whom the drug has been experimented so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) An Indian Council of Medical Research sponsored project for clinical trials with Liposomal preparations of Amphatercin B has recently been approved.

(b) and (c) As the study has been initiated recently in Patna, it is too early to expect the results of the project.

Fake doctors operating in the country

523. S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that fake doctors are operating in almost every part of the country particularly in the rural areas;

(b) whether it is a fact that fake doctors have recently been arrested in some parts of the country;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (d) Complaints of practice by unqualified medical practitioners are received from time to time. They are sent to the concerned authorities of the State Government/Union Territories for necessary action under the Law. As per information received from some State Governments, fake doctors are/have been prosecuted and convicted. To prevent practice by fake doctors, penal provisions exist under the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 for punishment with imprisonment for a term extending to one year or with fine extending to Rs. 1,000/- or with both.

Medical facilities for Cancer treatment

524. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state-

(a) whether it is a fact that there are nearly two million cancer patients in India;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction to the views of National Cancer Foundation that low priority is being given to cancer treatment;

(c) what are the reasons for small quantum of funds allocated for combating this disease;

(d) what are the plans for setting up better medical facilities for cancer treatment and its detection all over the country;

(e) what steps are being taken to encourage setting up of top class cancer treatment centres with a view to make such facilities available to people all over the country;

(f) whether it is a fact that Government have not encouraged bone marrow transplants in India; and

(g) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Reliable data regarding number of cancer patients in the country is not available. However, it is estimated that there are about 1.5 to 2 million cancer patients in India.

(b) and (c) Government has already started a National Cancer Control Programme to strengthen the diagnostic and treatment facilities for cancer. There are ten Regional Cancer Centres in the country which provide modern diagnostic and treatment facilities. As against the allocation of Rs. 20 crores during the 7th Five Year Plan, substantially increased allocation for the programme has been proposed during the 8th Five Year Plan. A provision of Rs. 18.79 crores has been made for the Programme during 1991-92.

(d) and (e) A scheme for development of Oncology Wings in selected Government Medical Colleges and hospitals and another scheme for district projects for health education and early detection of cancer have been introduced during 1990-91. Financial assistance is provided to the institutions/State Governments for the above purposes under the programme. The Central Government is also continuing to provide financial assistance to various State Govern-